(b) if so, the details of the results obtained so far;

(c) the commercial feasibility of the results towards achieving the self-sufficiency in the edible oils production; and

(d) the conditions under which oil palm cultivation is possible in the country and the potential area for cultivation thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Department of Biotechnology has initiated research and development on various aspects of oil-palm cultivation, including tissue culture propagation. Work carried out with seedling explants has resulted in tissue culture plants which has been transferred to soil. However, the research on tissue culture propogation of oil-palm is only at the laboratory level and there is no immediate commercial possibility.

(c) An area of about 28,000 ha have so far been brought under oil-palm cultivation in the country covering eight states. The initial yield performance in the farmer's field is encouraging.

(d) Oil-palm cultivation in the country is possible under irrigated conditions, temmperature ranging from 18-22° C (minimum) to 29-33° C (maximum) with 1800 hours of sunshine per annum. State-wise potential areas for oil-palm cultivation are given below :

S.No.	States	Total area (lakh ha.)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.00
2.	Assam	0.10
3.	Gujarat	0.61
4.	Goa	0.10
5.	Karnataka	2.50
6.	Kerala	0.05
7.	Maharashtra	0.10
8.	Orissa	0.10
9.	Tamil Nadu	030
10.	Tripura	0.05
11.	West Bengal	0.10
	Total	8.01

[Translation]

Delhi Milk Scheme

2540 SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of schemes of the Delhi Milk Scheme are lying pending due to non-availability of the land;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when such schemes are lying pending; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

[English]

Diversion of Forest Land

2541 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any enhanced powers of sanction has been delegated to the Chief Conservators and other similar officers posted by the Government at the different State Headquarters with a view to clearing the cases sent by the State Governments for the diversion of forest land to non-forestry purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases are lying pending with the Chief Conservator posted at Bhopal for according his clearance or for onward transmission to the Central Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For speedy clearance of projects under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, powers have been delegated to the Chief Conservators of Forests (Central) Government of India to finally dispose off the proposals involving diversion of forest land upto 5 ha., except in respect of regularisation of encroachment and mining. Power has also been delegated to the CCFs (Central) for processing proposals involving diversion of forest area above 5 ha. and upto 20ha., in consultation with State Advisory Group, for decision by the Ministry.

(c) Number of proposals pending with Regional Office, Bhopal, is 48.

Drive against Anti-Social Elements

2542 DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any drive against anti-social elements operating at platfroms of Delhi Railway Stations has been conducted by the Northern Railway recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons arrested so far;

(c) whether such regular periodical drives are likely to be maintained: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). The Delhi Railway Police has been regularly conducting drives against the anti-social elements at the Railway Stations in Delhi. During the current year, 3787 persons (anti-social elements) were arrested as a result of these drives.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of F.A.C.T.

2543. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government to expand the F.A.C.T. at Alwaye in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposed amount for the expansion work at the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. Alwaye in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited (FACT) is setting up a new 900 tonnes per day (TPD) ammonia plant at Udyogamandal at an estimated cost of Rs. 618 crore. The project is scheduled to be commissioned in June/July, 1997.

Environmental clearance for FACT's proposal for establishing a 900 TPD sulphuric acid plant at Ambalamedu at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.20 crores is awaited.

The proposal for building a 300 TPD Methanol plant at Udyogamandal at an estimated cost of Rs. 114.26 crore has not been found economically viable.

Opening of Tefulia Corridor

2544. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open Tefulia Corridor to connect Dinajpur with Jalpaiguri through Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that the proposal to open Tefulia Corridor to connect Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri through Bangladesh has not been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh. Our proposals for overall multi-modal transit facilities through Bangladesh has not evoked any positive response from Bangladesh side.

School Going Children

2545. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of school going children killed in road accident in Delhi during the last six months;

(b) whether these accidents are due to non-availability of traffic personnel/red lights at the red light crossing in the morning from 6 A.M. to 8 A.M.;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are also facing acute shortage of traffic personnel to cope up with this problem; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The number of such children killed in road accidents in Delhi during the period extending from June, 1996 to November, 1996 was 14.

(b) and (c). Apart from deploying staff for carrying speedy checks, the traffic signals remain functional during the morning hours.

(d) and (e). There was a shortage of police personnel in the traffic unit of Delhi Police, but recently the Government of India has sanctioned 1102 additional posts for this unit. The recruitment process in this regard has been completed and the recruits are at present on training.

Nature Conservation Walk

2546. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether first Nature Conservation Walk has been organised in Delhi in November, 1996 by the World Wide Fund for Nature;

(b) if so, the details thereof with background including number of participants;

(c) whether the walk had some objectives;

(d) if so, the details thereof with the success made to achieve the objectives;

(e) whether the Government propose to issue instructions for such walks in other major cities of the country; and